

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, February 8, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, February 8, 1843.

Private.

My dear sir, I received last night from Mr. Kendall, his letter of the 27th Ultimo, in answer to mine of the 10th on the subject of the quarrel between you, him and Mr. Rives. The delay in answering mine was, a sick spell which on the receipt of mine was upon him. His letter is in a proper feeling and stile—he says, that he is done with the controversy unless compelled by your further attack upon him, nay that you must reiterate that attack so as to make it necessary in defence of his character, which he is bound to defend, to come before the public, or address you and Mr. Rives on this subject so disagreeable to him. Having now both your declarations, that your corresponde[n]ce on this subject is at an end, and as I have it further from Mr. Kendall, that if desirable for peace, he is willing that all letters on this unfortunate and disagreeable subject should be withdrawn, and if desired burnt, Thus from you both having being informed, that this disagreeable correspondence is closed that was calculated to do you both great injury and no profit, and would have been used by the Whiggs with great force, and have done great injury to the democratic cause, I rejoice, and all your friends will rejoice on hearing that friendship is restored, and that it may be finally put to rest, and be buried in oblivion. I have wrote to our mutual friend Mr. Silas Wright jnr, to seek an interview with you seperately, and confidentially, and afterward bring you together, and have a shake of the hand together and a restoration of intercourse between you. To hear that this is effected will give me great pleasure and redound to the

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interest of all. For I have no doubt there are many secrete enemies, who would under the garb of friendship delight in blowing your quarrel in to a public flame. Neither of you can doubt my sincere friendship for you both. I speak to you both, as a fond father to a child and I pray you to listen, bury your quarrel in oblivion, and be on social terms.

Mr. Kendall refers to your comments on Botts speech, where you use the word, mistakes the facts etc—he thinks this a reflection on him that might have been omitted by the word mistakes the facts. Where feeling is on the tiptoe, every thing is construed in the worst sense, for I have no doubt but when you wrote it you had no intention of conveying the idea that he did so with intention. I name it that upon a proper occasion, when social terms are restored you may say to him, that you did not mean that the mistake was intentional.